

LARRY HURST RETIRES AFTER 19 YEARS OF SERVICE

By Kathleen Piché, L.C.S.W., Public Affairs Director



Past and present co-workers packed the conference room at Downtown Mental Health Center (DMHC) to celebrate the retirement of Larry Hurst, L.C.S.W., B.C.D., District Chief. Larry has been working on skid row at DMHC for 12 years, has been a dedicated county employee for 19 years and a clinical social worker for 38 years.

All those who spoke on his behalf noted that Larry has inspired many county employees to succeed and has personally taken the time to help clients in need.

Stacy Williams, R.N., M.S.N, past Program Head at DMHC, spoke about Larry's dedication to the helping profession in mentoring staff and being sensitive to client needs.



Dennis Murata, Deputy Director, Planning Division, will miss the human interaction he has shared with Larry, mostly around sports-talk, and wished Larry good luck in retirement.

Marvin Southard, D.S.W., LACDMH Director, was on hand to present Larry with a scroll from the LA County Board of Supervisors and spoke on Larry's behalf. "Larry's commitment to his work and community is undeniable," Dr. Southard said. "Thank you for all the staff you've developed and all the clients' lives you've made better because of your influence. You have been one of the stars and have drawn out other stars."



Maurice Weiss, M.D., wrapped up the event by noting how hard it is to work on skid row, stating, "Larry turned DMHC from a scandalous place to a professional place, meeting all the criteria." He closed by calling Larry "sensitive, bright and committed," borrowing a description from Winston Churchill.

A Los Angeles native, Larry grew up across the street from Wrigley field on Avalon Blvd. and crossed the street to watch the LA Angels, a minor league baseball team at the time, where Kedren Community Mental Health Center now stands. He went to LA schools and got his M.S.W. from U.S.C. He plans on continuing helping others at St. Vincent de Paul on skid row.